

## Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-10 /097 W

----- 064459

R 111548Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7564

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

UNCLAS LONDON 18171

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS

SUBJECT/ FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTS ISRAELI GOVERNMENT

SEES PEACE HOPE WITH PLO

1. IN LENGTHY FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE IN FINANCIAL TIMES OF NOVEMBER 11, RICHARD JOHNS, ITS MIDDLE EAST EDITOR, REPORTS "FOR THE FIRST TIME THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS RECOGNIZED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PLO MAY BE SET ON A COURSE TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT".

2. APPARENTLY DRAWING ON ISRAELI PRESS SOURCES, JOHNS WRITES THAT AT A PRIVATE BRIEFING KNESSET MEMBERS WERE TOLD BY "SENIOR OFFICIALS--ALMOST CERTAINLY RABIN--THAT ARAFAT WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE DECIDED TO SUSPEND GUERRILLA OPERATIONS INTO ISRAEL FROM LEBANON". ALTHOUGH GUERRILLA HAVE RETURNED TO THE ARKOUB, THEY HAVE SHOWN NO SIGNS OF RESUMING ACTIONS ACROSS THE BORDER. THE ISRAELIS BELIEVE THIS PRESAGES A MAJOR POLITICAL OFFENSIVE BY SYRIA EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR FOR A SETTLEMENT, AND THAT ASAD WIL RENEW THE UNDOF MANDATE. ARAFAT MAY HAVE GIVEN AN UNDER-

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TAKING NOT TO ENDANGER THE LEBANESE PEACE FORMULA BY PRO-

VOKING ISRAELI PROVOCATION.

3. JOHNS ARTICLE ALSO REPORTS THAT, ACCORDING TO LEFT-WING ISRAELI SOURCES, IN SEPTEMBER PLO REPRESENTATIVE ASSAM SARTAWI MET IN PARIS WITH ISRAELI "DOVES" MATTI PELED, YAACOV ARNON, ARIE ELIAV, AND YOSSIE AMITAI; AND THAT THREE WEEKS AGO SARTAWI AND TWO UNIDENTIFIED PLO COLLEAGUES MET IN PARIS WITH PELED, ARNON AND ISRAELI JOURNALISTS URI AVNERI AND MEIR PAIL.

4. JOHNS ACCOMPANIES FRONT-PAGE STORY WITH COMMENT ARTICLE, GIST OF WHICH IS THAT PLO IS LYING LOW AFTER FIGHTING IN LEBANON DAMAGED UNITY OF ITS MAINSTREAM AND BADLY STRAINED ITS LEADERSHIP. ARTICLES POUCHED TO EMBASSY TEL AVIV AND NEA/IAI.

5. FOR TEL AVIV: WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENT TO SHARE WITH FCO.

SPIERS

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, IS, UK, PLO, FINANCIAL TIMES  
**To:** STATE TEL AVIV  
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